

THE 39 STEPS



OPENSTAGE
THEATRE &
COMPANY

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Licensed by IVT Global Entertainment Limited

And an original concept by Simon Corble
and Nobby Dimon

Directed by Jessica Jackson



JAN. 11—FEB. 8, 2025

Playing at The Lincoln Center Magnolia Theatre

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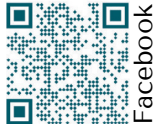
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Sydney Parks Smith
*Producing Artistic
Director*

The 39 Steps

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Licensed by IVT Global Entertainment Limited

And an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

**Bruce and Denise
Freestone**
Founders

Directed by Jessica Jackson
Scenic Design by Matthew Schlieff
Costume Design by Rebecca Evans
Lighting Design by Matthew Schlieff
Sound Design by Victoria Villalobos
Properties Design by Susan Rogers
Hair Design by Aimee Lucus
Make-up Design by Tyler Zuschneid
Intimacy Direction by Kate Austin-Gröen

Hannah Armstrong, Assistant Director, Stage Manager
Marissa J. Dienstag, Assistant Director, Assistant Stage Manager
Caleb Gilbert, Technical Director
Sydney Parks Smith, Production Manager

January 11 to February 8, 2025

Fridays and Saturdays · January 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, February 1, 7, 8 · 7:30 pm

Sundays · January 26, February 2 · 2:00 pm

Student/Educator Performance · January 10 · 7:30 pm

Pay-What-You-Can Performance · January 16 · 7:30 pm

FAB Friday · January 17 · 7:30 pm

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“The 39 Steps” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

The original London production directed by Maria Aitken designed by Peter McKintosh lighting designed by Ian Scott sound designed by Mic Pool and movement directed by Toby Sedgwick opened at the Tricycle Theatre (now known as Kiln Theatre) in Kilburn in August 2006 and transferred to the Criterion Theatre in the West End on 14th September 2006 and subsequently to the American Airlines Theatre on Broadway on 15 January 2008. The original production was directed by Fiona Buffini. This production is licensed and the film is distributed by ITV Global Entertainment Ltd.

**OpenStage Theatre & Company is a member of the Colorado Theatre Guild and
Theatre Communications Group, the national organization not-for-profit professional theatres.**

CAST / TIME / PLACE

CAST

Richard Hannay Jacob Offen
Annabella Schmidt /Margaret/ Pamela.....Katy White
Clown 1 David Austin-Gröen
Clown 2 Heather Ostberg Johnson

TIME & PLACE

1935, London, Edinburgh and the Scottish Highlands

*The 39 Steps runs approximately 2 hours
—with a 15 minute intermission.*

*The video or audio recording of this performance
by any means is strictly prohibited.*

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PRODUCTION STAFF / SPECIAL THANKS



| | |
|--|---|
| Master Carpenter | Caleb Gilbert |
| Scenic Artist | Matthew Schlieff |
| Wardrobe Supervisor/Head Seamstress | Rebecca Evans |
| Master Electrician | Hannah Armstrong |
| Properties Supervisor | Susan Rogers |
| Assistant Carpenter | Ivan Andrade |
| Sound Board Operator | Hannah Armstrong |
| Light Board Operator | Morgan Taylor |
| Hair & Wig Stylist | Aimee Lucus |
| Stage Hands/Dressers | Amanda Fyock, Christina Olson,Azran Starkweather, Tyler Zuschneid |
| Company Photographers | Kate Austin-Gröen, Aubrey Bierman Steve Finnestead, Joe Hovorka, Soleil Lean-Geddes |
| Company Videographer | Steve Finnestead |
| Poster Designer/Program Designer | Brys Scotland |
| Dramaturg/Program Coordinator | Sarah J Baker |
| Set-In Crew | Ivan Andrade, Cara Buckley, Rebecca Evans, Kimber Freestone-Hoven, Caleb Gilbert, Kiere Gilbertson, Jessica Jackson, Aimee Lucus, Liam Martell, Dave Miller, Christina Olson, Bill Pool, Susan Rogers, Cisco Saavedra, Duane Sawyer, Steven P. Sickles, Mike Walsh, Shayna Walsh, Victoria Villalobos |
| Electrics Crew | Hannah Armstrong, Jenny Boehs, Marissa Dienstag, David Grinnell, Matt Schlieff |

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Candlelight Dinner Playhouse
- Canyon Concert Ballet
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- Debut Theatre
- The Downtown Development Authority
- Fort Collins Children's Theatre
- Fort Collins Lincoln Center
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- Miranda Guettlein
- David Haimson
- Chris Lanphear

FROM THE DIRECTOR

There's nothing like an oversimplified, yet still-somehow-incomprehensible spy story to satisfy our hunger for thrills. When Alfred Hitchcock (very loosely) adapted John Buchan's spy novel for his 1935 film, he defined so many of the aspects of the escapist thrillers we know today: the fugitive hero, the mysterious female spy, egregious action sequences, and the ridiculous MacGuffin. Hitchcock loved the MacGuffin technique. Once you know about MacGuffins, it's impossible not to spot them in nearly every thriller. This goofily named narrative device refers to something that is necessary to the plot and the character's motivation – but utterly irrelevant on its own. Think of the briefcase in *Pulp Fiction*, Rosebud in *Citizen Kane*, that stupid necklace in *The Titanic*. A MacGuffin could be anything, as long as it jumpstarts the plot and causes the characters to go through hell to get it. It is literally and figuratively the holy grail.

So why adapt this '30s spy film into a stage play where 4 actors play over 90 characters? Because it's fun. That's it, really. It's delightful to see a chase scene on a moving train reimagined for the stage with just a few props and lighting effects. Recreating scenes that originated on film on a mostly bare stage is a testament to the power of live theatre. The effect is impressive, while also quite hilarious. And it works because you're already familiar with the tropes. You've seen how many films where the hero jumps from train car to train car to escape his pursuers? We're going to rely heavily on the part of your brain dedicated to storing pop culture references.

This is escapist entertainment. Don't misunderstand: it's devilishly smart. But at its heart, *The 39 Steps* is here to whisk you away. To make you laugh, groan, and cheer. So, I invite you to lean into that. Escape for a couple of hours. Irreverence, silliness, and levity are essential to a better world. They crack us open, so that kindness, hope, and love can enter.

In the words of our hero, Richard Hannay (rather, one of Hitchcock's team of writers in 1935):

"Let's all just set ourselves resolutely to make this world a happier place! A decent world! A good world! A world where no nation plots against nation! Where no neighbour plots against neighbour, where there's no persecution or hunting down, where everybody gets a square deal and a sporting chance and where people try to help and not to hinder! A world where suspicion and cruelty and fear have been forever banished! That's the sort of world I want! Is that the sort of world you want?"

Yes, it is, Mr. Hannay! Enjoy the play.

-Jessica Jackson, Director

Photo by Aubrey Renee Photography





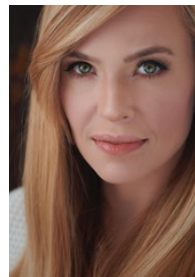
JESSICA JACKSON, Director, is a director, composer, actor, writer, and rampant improviser. During her time as Artistic Director of Creede Repertory Theatre, this award-winning

theatre produced 6 world premiere productions, 7 new play festivals, & 12 world-premiere commissions for young audiences. She founded *Boomtown Improv Comedy* and helmed the devised *Pants on Fire: a totally made-up musical for kids*. Some of her favorite projects: Socially distanced golf-cart odyssey *The Rough* (writer/director) & satirical musical *Small Ball* (director) with The Catamounts, *Roe* (director) and *The Laramie Project* (director) at Oklahoma City University, Colorado premieres of *Miss Holmes* (director) and William Shakespeare's *Land of the Dead* (director), the world premiere of *Sight Hound* (director) by Pam Houston, *Billy Hell* (composer-Denver Post Ovation Award Best Original Music), and sundry original shows created with Jeff Carey (composer/director). She's working on a new full-length musical, *Singletrack*, with Steven Cole Hughes and goofing around with her 12-year-old daughter, Penny, and brilliant husband, Matt.



JACOB OFFEN, Richard Hannay, is thrilled to return home to OpenStage Theatre & Company! He received his MFA from the University of Houston in 2017. There he played

Brutus in *Julius Caesar*, The Stage Manager in *Our Town* and Joe Keller in *All My Sons*. Jacob also has worked for Texas Shakespeare Festival, Houston Shakespeare Festival and Houston's Main Street Theatre. He formally served as the Company Development Administrator for OpenStage and appeared in numerous roles with the Company, including Dr. Frank N' Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show* and Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*. Jacob won the OpenStage OPUS Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor twice for performances in *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* and once for Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*.



KATY WHITE, Annabella Schmidt/Margaret/Pamela, is a native Coloradan writer-performer, and is thrilled to work with OpenStage for the first time. She graduated with

her MFA in Classical Acting in 2021 from the Shakespeare Theater Company's Academy for Classical Acting in Washington, D.C. Her most recent roles include: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Mary), *Julius Caesar* (Mark Antony), *The Cherry Orchard* (Yasha), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolyn Christie), *Crimes of the Heart* (Babe Magrath). She would like to thank her friends, family, and cats for their support and love.



DAVID AUSTIN-GRÖEN, Clown 1, is overjoyed to be reprising a clown role in *The 39 Steps*, which was the first show he appeared in upon moving to Fort Collins. A 38-year veteran of

theatre, David has performed in over 59 different productions and theatrical tours as well as having several directing credits. Some of his favorite past roles include Poirot in *Murder on The Orient Express*, Ben Johnson in *The Book of Will* (both performances received Colorado Henry award nominations), Brock in *Ideation*, Harold in *The Full Monty*, Prince John in *Sherwood*, Caliban in *The Tempest*, Agamemnon in *Apocrypha*, and Edward Winslow in *A Pilgrim's Project*. David was previously the Artistic Director of Radio Star Improv in San Francisco and is a founding member of Fort Collins Comedy Brewers Improv. In the few minutes a week when not being a theatre nerd in one way or another, he is a reader, a gamer, and Dad to very busy high schoolers.



HEATHER OSTBERG JOHNSON, Clown 2, Associate Artistic Director, is pumped for the 2024/2025 OST&C season. Heather serves as Associate Artistic Director for the Company and

wears many hats as a theatre maker and movement artist in Colorado. She is a director, improv comedian, writer, performer, teacher, clown, and

dancer. She can be found performing with The Comedy Brewers, The Band of Toughs (Denver), Full Expression Dance Collective and The Story Bakers. Heather's passion for movement, devised plays, and physical theatre has led her to train with SITI Company members, Frantic Assembly, Michael Chekhov Acting Studio, NIPIA, and Double Edge Theatre. She is grateful for her husband and toddler who help her keep all these plates spinning!



HANNAH ARMSTRONG, Assistant Director/ Stage Manager/ Master Electrician, graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, where she received her degree in Stage

Management. She has been actively and avidly working in theatre for many years with various companies in Fort Collins and Loveland. She is excited to be celebrating her twentieth season with OpenStage. Most recently, Hannah worked with OpenStage as the Stage Manager for *The Book of Will*, *The Revolutionists*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Men on Boats*, and *Avenue Q*. She has also been a Production Stage Manager with the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, KS since 2010. She has worked extensively behind the scenes in other capacities and received the OpenStage OPUS Award for Best Technical Support for several years. Hannah is the recipient of the 2019 OpenStage Founders' Award, which is awarded annually for outstanding contributions to the Company.

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HORTON FOOTE

DIRECTED BY
WARREN SHERRILL

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MARISSA J. DIENSTAG, Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager, is thrilled to be part of this amazing and hilarious production. While she debuted with OpenStage in *Treasure Island*,

she has enjoyed becoming more involved and is excited to be joining this tremendous cast, crew and design team. Marissa has held the role of an Assistant Director/Stage Manager for *Elf* and *Addams Family* with FCCT. Prior to moving to Colorado she has directed, choreographed, stage managed, and acted with various Ohio community theatre groups. She enjoys traveling, spending time on the water, and experiencing new adventures. She truly appreciates her friends' and family's support and encouragement. Marissa would like to thank the community and hope they enjoy this exciting and utterly bonkers production.



MATTHEW SCHLIEFF, Scenic Designer/Lighting Designer/Scenic Artist, currently serves as the Theater Operations Manager at The Lincoln Center. He has designed scenery,

lighting, sound, and projections for TUTS Underground, The Catamounts, Creede Repertory Theatre, Main Street Theatre, Houston Shakespeare Festival, Flatlands Dance Theatre, West Virginia Public Theatre, Virginia Musical Theatre, and Lubbock Moonlight Musicals, as well as

the COCO Dance Festival in Trinidad. In 2012, Matt received the Houston Press Theatre Award for Best Lighting Design for *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, and in 2013 received the Broadway World Best of Houston Award for his Lighting Design of *Sweeney Todd*. He has designed, lectured, and provided master classes at the University of Houston, Rice University, Oklahoma City University, Texas Tech, Colorado Mesa University, Gonzaga University, and the National Academy for the Performing Arts in Trinidad. Over the past 16 years, Matt has designed more than 150 different productions, from a variety of theaters both nationally and internationally.



REBECCA EVANS, Costume Designer, Head Seamstress, is delighted to join OpenStage for this production of *The 39 Steps*. Rebecca is currently employed as the

full-time Cutter/Draper in Colorado State University's Costume Shop, which handles the costumes for the Theatre, Dance, and Music departments at CSU. Previously, Rebecca was a Draper at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, Florida, where she worked on such productions as *The Sound of Music*, *Ragtime*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Evita*. Rebecca has costumed more than 50 productions during her career and is always delighted to work with the wonderful company of OpenStage.



VICTORIA VILLALOBOS, Sound Designer, has loved theatre since she was a child. She has worked extensively with OpenStage as a Sound Designer and Engineer, Makeup and Hair Designer

and Stylist, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Board Operator, Stagehand, and Dresser. Victoria also has worked with Fort Collins Children's Theatre for the past 7 productions, most recently as the Makeup Designer and Stylist for *The Addams Family*. Next on the list, she will be designing for FCCT's production of *SpongeBob The Musical* in November of 2024. In addition, she has worked with companies such as Opera Fort Collins, Canyon Concert Ballet, and The Cheyenne Little Theatre Players. Victoria was recently nominated for a Henry Award for Outstanding Sound Design for her work on *The Book of Will* with OpenStage. She received her associate degree from Front Range Community College, where she was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the President's List, both for her academic achievements. Victoria wishes to thank her family and friends for all their love and support!



SUSAN ROGERS, Properties Designer/Set Dresser/Properties Supervisor, has worn many hats in the Front Range theater community over the years. She has designed

props for OpenStage and Fort Collins Children's Theatre, and has performed in Children's Theatre musicals and Opera Fort Collins productions. She served as choreographer, music director, and assistant director in the Fort Collins Children's Theatre summer program, and composed incidental music for *Reasons: The House Burned Down*, and OpenStage Theatre's *Stage Kiss*. Favorite roles in FCCT shows include Aunt Spiker in *James and the Giant Peach*, Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*, Mrs. Gloop in *Willy Wonka*, and Mole in *The Wind in the Willows*. She performs vintage popular tunes with the Mont Alto Ragtime and Tango Orchestra, and with her dance band The Exuberant Quartet. Susan teaches singing, and in the winter teaches skiing with Ignite Adaptive Sports at Eldora.



AIMEE LUCUS, Hair/Wig Designer, was last seen in OpenStage's productions of *Reefer Madness* and *Dance Nation*. A graduate of the Foothill Theater Conservatory. Some

of her favorite roles she has played include The Witch in *Into The Woods*, Mina in *Dracula the Musical*, Ellen in *Miss Saigon*, Doralee in *9 to 5*, Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, and Cheryl in the Arizona Premier of *Evil Dead the Musical*. In addition to hair and makeup design, Aimee also has various Directing and Choreography credits to her name.



TYLER ZUSCHNEID, *Makeup Designer/ Stagehand/ Dresser*, grew up in Fort Collins and has been involved with theatre from a young age, acting, singing, dancing, assisting

with hair/make-up/costumes for many productions over the years with Debut, Fort Collins Children’s Theatre, Fossil Ridge High School, University of Northern Colorado, and OpenStage. In OpenStage’s 50th season they designed make-up for *Cabaret* and *Hedwig And The Angry Inch*, followed by *Big Fish* in the 51st season. By wearing makeup every day, including while they work at Costco, Tyler is hoping to bring positive social representation to the Northern Colorado community. Tyler would like to thank their Mom and Rebecca Spafford for being a close mentor and fabulous friend.



KATE AUSTIN-GRÖEN, *Intimacy Coordinator*, has been performing for over three decades, and has done many regional theatre productions in Texas, Virginia, Minnesota,

California, and several other states. Since moving to Fort Collins in 2010, Kate has performed and directed several productions for OpenStage Theatre, Bas Bleu Theatre, Midtown Arts Center, and the Fort Collins Children’s Theatre. Kate is the Production Manager for OpenStage

Theatre’s etcetera season, as well as their resident Intimacy Director.



IVAN ANDRADE, *Assistant Carpenter*, is a skilled set and prop constructor who loves to create immersive environments for theatrical productions.

Following several collaborative efforts on OpenStage productions, he has developed several creative solutions for *Reefer Madness*. Ivan is extremely grateful to be part of a talented Production and Design team who share his passion for storytelling.



MORGAN TAYLOR, *Lightboard Operator*, since the 29th Season, Morgan has fulfilled many roles with Openstage, including performer, writer for their radio projects, stage

manager, stagehand, and technician. His favorite recent work with the company was a dual role that allowed him to channel his inner pirates as both the evil Blind Pew and the happy-go-lucky Lucky Mickey in the outdoor production of *Treasure Island* in 2023. A native of Minden, Nebraska, he first performed in school productions in Phillipsburg, Kansas and with companies as far away as Worms, Germany and as small as The Eddyville Community Players in Eddyville, Nebraska, a town

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with fewer than a hundred residents in the Nebraska Sandhills. After so many years, Morgan still enjoys being asked to work with Openstage and hopes they never stop calling.



AMANDA FYOCK, Stagehand/Dresser, has worked with OpenStage previously in *Clue: On Stage, Big Fish: small cast edition*, and *Reefer Madness*. She is a structural drafter

by day, but when she's not sitting at a computer she is an aerialist, training and performing aerial sling, lyra, and other circus apparatuses. She is involved in several board game communities and even dabbles in board game design. She is very excited to be involved with *The 39 Steps!*



CHRISTINA OLSON, Stagehand/Dresser, is a versatile actor and artist with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she specialized in acting, makeup and hair,

and costuming. Her stage credits include roles such as Phaedra in Phaedra, Enid Hoops in Legally Blonde, Diana in Lend Me A Tenor, and Nia in 100. Outside of theatre, Christina enjoys streaming on Twitch and creating digital art, passions that allow her to connect with others and explore her creativity in new ways. She also cherishes spending time with their husband and four guinea pigs, who

are her biggest supporters in both her artistic and personal life.



AZRAN STARKWEATHER, Stagehand/Dresser, grew up doing theatre with Debut Theatre Company in Fort Collins, CO. After finishing high school, Azran moved to New

York City and studied acting at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting and at The Neighborhood Playhouse. At the Neighborhood Playhouse, they fell in love with stage management and aspire to do much more with it. Azran is excited to be back in Fort Collins and working on this wonderful production!



CALEB GILBERT, Master Carpenter/ Technical Director, began his career in 2008 with a degree in Fine Arts, specializing in sculpture awarded by Rocky Mountain College of Art and

Design. In 2012, Caleb graduated from Cranbrook Academy of Art based just outside Detroit, MI, specializing in sculpture. After graduating, he started at Eleventh Street Workshop in Brooklyn, NY as a Carpenter. Eleventh Street Workshop is a full-service design and production facility specializing in the set world. They design and build sets for events, commercials, photo shoots, and short films. While working there, Caleb was a project manager, designer, and production coordinator. By 2020, Caleb

was the Head Production Designer, running upwards of five million dollars in projects. Some of his favorite clients/projects included Google, Nike, Saturday Night Live, and Refinery 29. Caleb is now excited to use his skills and talents as the first (paid) Technical Director for OpenStage. OpenStage has always been a home for Caleb ever since his first show over twenty years ago.



SYDNEY PARKS SMITH, Production Manager/Producing Artistic Director, has worked with OpenStage since 1997 and serves as Producing Artistic Director for the Company. Recent

roles include Tracy in *SWEAT*, Marie-Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*, Sir John Middleton in *Sense and Sensibility*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, M'lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, and Barbara Fordham in *August: Osage County* (CTG Henry Award – Best Actress 2017). Recent directing credits include *The Book of Will*, *Hedwig And The Angry Inch*, *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, and *Avenue Q*. She received the 2016 Founders' Award for her outstanding contributions to the Company. Thanks to Harry, Rex, Gus, and her mom...they know why.



BRUCE AND DENISE FREESTONE, Founders, founded OpenStage in 1973 and have provided leadership to both the Company and to the development of the arts in Northern Colorado

for the past 50 years. The Freestones have passed the Theatre's leadership to Producing Artistic Director, Sydney Parks Smith. Both Bruce and Denise have extensive experience as actors, directors, producers, and designers; they have garnered regional awards and recognition for both themselves and the Theatre, including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and the Tree of Peace Medallion, which signifies a lifetime of contributions to the Arts and Culture Industry.



Adapted by Patrick Barlow

Besides his version of Lew Wallace's Ben Hur, Patrick Barlow's Olivier-nominated adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* has played off-Broadway and London's West End while his 4-person adaptation of *The 39 Steps* has played in over forty countries worldwide, winning Olivier, Helpmann, Moliere and Tony Awards and making Patrick the most performed playwright in America for 2012/13. Most recently, his rewriting of John Milton's *Comus* has played to critical acclaim at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Patrick is also celebrated in the UK for his two-man theatre company National Theatre of Brent, whose comedy epics include *Wagner's Ring Cycle*, *The Charles and Diana Story*, *The Messiah*, *The Wonder of Sex*, *The Arts and How They Was Done*, *The Black Hole of Calcutta*, *The Life and Times of the Dalai Lama* and *Zulu!* They have won two Sony Gold Awards, a Premier Ondas Award for Best European Comedy and the New York Festival Gold Award for Best Comedy.

Other screenwriting includes *Van Gogh* (Prix Futura Berlin Film Festival), *Revolution!!* (Best Comedy Jerusalem Film Festival) and the BAFTA-winning *The Young Visitors*. Publications include *Shakespeare: The Truth!* and *The Complete History of the Whole World*. Patrick has also appeared in *Absolutely Fabulous*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Notting Hill*, *Nanny McPhee* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*. He is currently writing theatre versions of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Dracula*.

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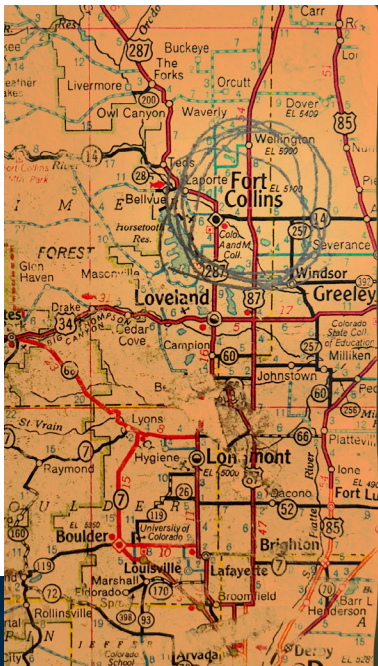
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